

16. An apparatus for converting a visual image into a tactile image, comprising:

a two-dimensional array of variable height actuator pins;
a photometer formed in a first end of each of the actuator pins, wherein each photometer generates an electronic signal indicating the light intensity at the location of the photometer; and

a computing device for receiving the electronic signal from the photometer and providing a control signal to each actuator pin in proportion to the electronic signal received from a photometer in the same location.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the photometer is a photodiode.

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